Liberalisation of Indian Economy

1692. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of company executives of United States have expressed the view that there is immediate need to liberalise the Indian Economy further to attract foreign investment in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that excise duties and tariffs in the country are still on the high side; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) to (c) The New Industrial Policy announoed by the Government in July, 1991 has generated considerable interest amongst investors from several countries including those from the USA. Foreign investors from various countries continue to seek additional information or clarifications on the New Industrial Policy. The total direct foreign investment in India proposed by US companies in the foreign collaboration approvals issued in 1991 and 1992 totals Rs. 1858.5 million and Rs. 10073.1 million respectively as against Rs. 344.8 million in 1990. This shows continued increased interest of U.S. investors in investing in India.

Review of Excise duties and tariffs is a continuing[1] process.

Action against directors of Cement Corporation of India

1693. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission issued chargesheets against some of the directors of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it- is also a fact that the Public Undertaking Selection Board issued termination orders to I ho concerned ofirial:

Ul) it so, what are the details in ihis regard;

(e) whether it was referred to the Appointment Committee *of.* the Cabinet; if so. whether it endorsed the proposal; and

(f) what action has been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) .

(a) No, Sir. However, during the last 3 years, the Ministry had issued charge sheets against two Directors of CCl viz. Dr. K. D. Gupta, Dir. (Pers.) and Sh. A. U. Rijhsinghani, Dir. (Proj.) in consulta tion with CVC.

(b) Both the Directors were charge sheeted for alleged acts of misconduct.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Shri Rijhsinghani retired on superannuation. In the case of Dr. K. D. Gupta, PESB conducted a joint appraisal of his performance and recommended premature termination of his services.

(e) and (t',1 The proposal lor premature termination of the services of Dr. K. D. Gupta was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and necessary orders have been issued terminating his appointment with effect from 26-11-1992.

Shortfall in availability of paper

1694. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that All India Small Paper Mills Association has recently predicted that there will be nearly 60 per cent shortfall in the availability of paper and card board by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to increase the production of paper and card board in the country ?